

Hands-on History Chapter Project

networks

The Great Depression Begins, 1929–1932

Making a Depression-Era Protest Sign (Sandwich Board)

Step 1: Finding Your Cause

Have small groups work together to create protest or hunger march signs based upon Great Depression concerns.

Essential Question

Ask: How do depressions affect societies?

Directions: Divide the class into small groups. Tell students that many Americans chose to express their feelings about the economic conditions of the Great Depression through protests or hunger marches. Protests were held for many different reasons. Some protestors asked the government for help finding a job, others asked for farm aid, while some others asked for direct financial support. Have each group decide what they will protest or march in favor of. Students should refer to the chapter to brainstorm ideas for their protest signs.

Putting It Together Suggest that students divide the work according to their skills.

Step 2: Recording Your Messages

Directions: Have students make their signs to reflect the condition they are protesting. Remind them to review the text to ensure their messages are as historically accurate as possible. Signs should be made to be as genuine as possible. Using era-specific language, materials, and construction will help achieve authenticity. Tell students to share in the work, as a family during the Great Depression may have worked on their signs together. Students will be asked to present their messages to the class in the next step.

Putting It Together Allow sufficient time for students to construct their signs. Remind students to look at the photos from the chapter to help build an accurate sign.

Step 3: Reviewing Your Work

Directions Each group should review their signs as a group, checking that the images and text are easy to understand and accurate. Tell students to remember the cause they decided on before creating their signs, and check that every element of the finished sign is appropriate for the message they wanted to express. If they decide to make changes, they can use correction tape, liquid paper, or cutting and pasting to edit their work.

Putting It Together Allow sufficient time for students to review their signs. Remind students that having a clear, strong message is the key to a good protest sign.

Step 4: Group Presentation

Directions Each group should present their sign to the rest of the class. Have the students explain what concern they chose to focus on with their sign. The messages on the signs should clearly communicate how students would have felt during the Great Depression. Encourage the audience to offer feedback to each group. Comments should be constructive and helpful and should be limited to content, rather than focusing on the quality of the signs.

Putting It Together Have students review each group's sign. After each sign has been evaluated, have the students pick which sign best expresses a Depression-era concern.